
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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MOLYBDENUM IN JUNE 1997

Domestic production of molybdenum in concentrate decreased 21% in June 1997 compared with that of the previous month and was 5% less than in June 1996, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Producer molybdenum stocks in concentrate, oxide, and other product forms were 8,250 metric tons at the beginning of 1997 and 9,590 metric tons at the end of June 1997.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys are U.S. production, shipments, and stocks of molybdenum concentrates and materials, plus U.S. consumption by end use of molybdenum in the previous and current months. Also included are trade data for the previous 2 months. During the current month, Platt's

Metals Week U.S. monthly average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.960 per kilogram (\$2.250 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$10.044 per kilogram (\$4.556 per pound) and that for dealer ferromolybdenum was \$11.904 per kilogram (\$5.400 per pound).

For the week ending September 5, 1997, Metals Week U.S. average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$4.960 per kilogram (\$2.250 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$9.534 per kilogram (\$4.325 per pound) and that for ferromolybdenum was \$11.794 per kilogram (\$5.350 per pound).

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT MOLYBDENUM CONCENTRATE STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

	1996 p/	1997		
		May	June	Year to date
Production	56,000	5,610	4,420	31,300
Shipments: 2/				
Domestic	16,100	1,200	1,050	7,000
Export	19,700	1,760	1,490	10,000

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ Includes molybdc oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 2
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS 1/ IN 1997

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdc oxides	Ferro molybdenum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molybdenum scrap	Other	Total
May:						
Steel:						
Carbon	45,500	W	--	--	3,190	48,700
High-strength low-alloy	41,600	8,590	--	--	--	50,100
Stainless and heat-resisting	277,000	27,100	--	--	4,700	309,000
Full alloy	242,000	171,000	--	--	2,330	416,000
Tool	91,700	6,420	--	--	2,310	100,000
Total	698,000	213,000	--	--	12,500	924,000
Cast irons (gray, malleable, and ductile iron)	1,670	56,400	--	--	763	58,900
Superalloys	74,000	W	--	34,500	41,700	150,000
Alloys: (other than steels, cast irons, and superalloys)						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	W	--	(3/)	820	820
Other alloys 4/	--	W	--	--	6,150	6,150
Mill products made from metal powder 5/	--	--	--	--	195,000	195,000
Cemented carbides and related products 6/	--	--	--	--	--	--
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments			651	--	--	651
Catalysts	77,300	--	W	--	14,900	92,200
Other 7/	--	--	W	--	2,670	2,670
Miscellaneous and unspecified uses:						
Lubricants	--	--	--	--	13,100	13,100
Other	892	54,500	75,900	--	--	131,000
Grand total	852,000	324,000	76,500	34,500	287,000	1,570,000
Stocks, May 31, 1997	590,000	222,000	11,400	74,400	809,000	1,710,000
June:						
Steel:						
Carbon	42,800	27,700	--	--	3,190	73,700
High-strength low-alloy	37,800	9,290	--	--	--	47,100
Stainless and heat-resisting	252,000	23,300	--	--	4,700	280,000
Full alloy	201,000	178,000	--	--	2,330	381,000
Tool	95,000	6,920	--	--	2,310	104,000
Total	629,000	246,000	--	--	12,500	887,000
Cast irons (gray, malleable, and ductile iron)	1,670	54,500	--	--	763	56,900
Superalloys	W	W	--	(8/)	74,500	74,500
Alloys: (other than steels, cast irons, and superalloys)						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	W	--	(3/)	285	285
Other alloys 4/	--	W	--	--	6,670	6,670
Mill products made from metal powder 5/	--	--	--	--	134,000	134,000
Cemented carbides and related products 6/	--	--	--	--	12	12
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments			963	--	--	963
Catalysts	77,300	--	W	--	14,900	92,200
Other 7/	--	--	--	--	2,660	2,660

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2--Continued
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS 1/ IN 1997

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdc oxides	Ferro molyb- denum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molyb- denum scrap	Other	Total
June--Continued:						
Miscellaneous and unspecified uses:						
Lubricants	--	--	--	--	11,100	11,100
Other	89,200	23,800	75,900	--	--	189,000
Total	797,000	324,000	76,900	--	258,000	1,460,000
Stocks, June 30, 1997	576,000	205,000	11,100	45,200	813,000	1,650,000

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other" of the "Miscellaneous and unspecified uses" category.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium molybdate.

3/ Included in "Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)" of the "Other" category.

4/ Includes magnetic and nonferrous alloys.

5/ Includes ingot, wire, rod, and sheet.

6/ Includes construction, mining, oil and gas, metal working machinery.

7/ Includes ground coat, glass, silicone, electroplating, and drier in paint or related uses.

8/ Included in "Superalloys" of the "Other" category.

TABLE 3
U.S. REPORTED PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

	1996 p/	1997		
		May	June	Year to date
Gross production	46,300	3,640	2,380	23,800
Internal consumption 2/	23,900	1,830	1,620	11,700
Gross shipments	24,100	2,280	2,010	13,400

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ Includes molybdc oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 4
U. S. EXPORTS OF MOLYBDENUM ORES AND CONCENTRATES
(Including roasted concentrate), BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1996	1997		
		April	May	Year to date
Australia	60,900	1,760	5,530	36,000
Belgium	12,400,000	1,890,000	1,670,000	7,720,000
Brazil	20,400	--	--	339
Canada	268,000	44,700	37,700	172,000
Chile	6,990,000	620,000	425,000	2,740,000
China	1,290,000	17,400	--	282,000
France	5,620	--	60	60
Germany	505,000	145,000	--	343,000
India	58,600	--	--	--
Italy	384,000	--	--	137,000
Japan	5,140,000	600,000	574,000	3,030,000
Korea, Republic of	10,200	--	--	--
Mexico	5,500,000	350,000	463,000	1,780,000
Netherlands	5,890,000	1,590,000	1,780,000	9,070,000
Spain	19,900	--	36,800	65,600
Sweden	473,000	59,700	99,000	378,000
United Kingdom	6,010,000	175,000	1,130,000	2,990,000
Other	--	--	--	9,540
Total	45,000,000	5,500,000	6,220,000	28,800,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROMOLYBDENUM, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1996	1997		
		April	May	Year to date
Australia	--	--	273	273
Canada	252,000	42,000	41,600	180,000
China	--	--	--	130
Italy	--	--	--	3,170
Japan	117,000	6,440	4,510	17,400
Korea, Republic of	1,910	--	953	1,010
Malaysia	37,200	--	--	--
Mexico	117,000	9,820	5,130	55,600
Singapore	53,900	--	--	--
Spain	1,160	--	--	--
Taiwan	--	--	1,970	5,520
Venezuela	1,090	--	--	--
Total	581,000	58,200	54,500	263,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Kilograms unless otherwise specified)

Material	1996			1997		
	January-December			January-May		
	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (c.i.f.) (thousands)	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (c.i.f.) (thousands)
Ore and concentrates roasted	8,090,000	5,460,000	\$41,300,000	3,560,000	2,210,000	\$21,500,000
Ore and concentrates other	35,600	21,100	173,000	784,000	415,000	3,010,000
Molybdenum chemicals:						
Oxides and hydroxides	1,160,000	--	8,850,000	804,000	--	6,490,000
Molybdates of ammonium	665,000	368,000	5,360,000	397,000	207,000	3,170,000
Molybdates (all others)	82,500	36,400	506,000	80,700	55,800	491,000
Molybdenum orange	1,840,000	--	5,710,000	707,000	--	2,330,000
Mixtures of inorganic compounds	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ferromolybdenum	7,870,000	4,960,000	55,100,000	2,250,000	1,420,000	15,200,000
Molybdenum powders	125,000	110,000	3,470,000	44,300	38,100	1,470,000
Molybdenum unwrought	91,100	84,400	2,380,000	233,000	220,000	2,810,000
Molybdenum waste and scrap	693,000	640,000	9,720,000	238,000	233,000	3,800,000
Molybdenum wrought	--	--	--	--	--	--
Molybdenum wire	1,990	--	320,000	1,050	--	141,000
Molybdenum other	3,870	--	1,060,000	3,200	--	473,000
Total	20,700,000	11,700,000	134,000,000	9,100,000	4,810,000	60,900,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.